

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, H.A. (

SUBJECT: NYTIMES ARTICLE, SUNDAY, APRIL 25

NO. 12 FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

NYTIMES FRONT PAGE STORY BY GELB, ENTITLED "U.S. ACQUIESCES
ON SALES OF ARMS TO CHINA BY WEST"; BRITAIN AND FRANCE
ALLOWED TO BYPASS ALLIED REVIEW PANEL IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR
PURCHASES OF STRATEGIC ITEMS. EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

FORD ADMIN, WHILE STRICTLY ENFORCING CONTROLS ON AMERICAN
SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CHINA, HAS QUIETLY ACQUIESCED
TO SOME EUROPEAN SALES TO CHINA AND TO NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE
SALES.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THAT TO FACILITATE
THESE SALES, FRANCE AND BRITAIN HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO BYPASS
ALLIED CONTROL MECHANISM TO REVIEW ALL PROPOSED SALES
OF STRATEGIC ITEMS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

OFFICIALS SAID THIS DID NOT CONSTITUTE A POLICY DECISION
BUT RATHER A DISPOSITION TO SEND A POSITIVE SIGNAL TO CHINA
WITHOUT PROVOKING SOVIET UNION.

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ONLY SIGNIFICANT CASE THUS FAR HAS BEEN MULTIMILLION DOLLAR BRITISH SALE OF POWERFUL ROLLS-ROYCE SPEY ENGINE TO CHINA IN DECEMBER. OFFICIALS SAID THAT AFTER BRITISH HAD INFORMED FORD ADMINISTRATION THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEEK ALLIED APPROVAL FOR SALE, SECSTATE KISSINGER LET THEM KNOW THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT.

OFFICIALS FAMILIAR WITH HISTORY OF ALLIED REVIEW PANEL KNOWN AS COCOM, SHORT FOR COORDINATION COMITE, SAID THIS WAS FIRST INSTANCE OF A CLEAR CUT MILITARY ITEM BEING SOLD TO A COMMUNIST NATION WITHOUT FORMAL APPROVAL.

...ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOSCOW TENDS TO BENEFIT FROM WHAT THEY CALLED THEIR POLICY OF "EVENHANDEDNESS" TOWARD PEKING AND MOSCOW.

...A NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DENIED A RECENT CHARGE BY SCHLESINGER THAT GOVT WAS "PREPARED TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY, OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO OUR REPUTED FOE WHILE DENYING SIMILAR KINDS OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH A QUASIALY.

...GERMAN OFFICIALS ARE KEEPING STATE DEPT INFORMED ABOUT CURRENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MESSERSCHMITT-BOLKOW-BLOHM CO. AND CHINA ON B-0105 HELICOPTER. THIS IS AN ADVANCED MODEL THAT COULD BE USED FOR CIVILIAN OR MILITARY PURPOSES.

THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS OF A JAPANESE COMPANY NEGOTIATING ON SALE OF PATROL AIRCRAFT TO CHINA.

A TOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT "OUR OVERALL SET IS TO BE HELPFUL TO CHINA WITHIN LIMITS." "AND CHINA HAS ITS OWN LIMITS IN EXPOSING ITS NEED FOR AND INCREASING ITS DEPENDENCE ON WESTERN TECHNOLOGY," HE ADDED.

"WHEN CHINESE GO OUT TO GUY, THEY PREFER TO DEAL WITH OUR ALLIES," THE OFFICIAL NOTED. "THEY BASICALLY COME TO US FOR THOSE ITEMS THEY CAN NOT BUY ELSEWHERE, LIKE MOST ADVANCED COMPUTERS."

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OFFICIALS SAID THAT KISSINGER HAD REPEATEDLY TOLD CHINESE LEADERS THAT U.S. HAD A VITAL CONCERN IN MAINTAINING CHINESE-SOVIET BALANCE OF POWER BUT THAT HE HAD NOT SPELLED OUT WHAT THIS MEANT.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT SOVIETS HAVE EXPRESSED NERVOUSNESS ABOUT DIRECT U.S.-CHINA MILITARY SALES," AN OFFICIAL EXPLAINED. "IF THEIR WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED, IT WOULD

AFFECT THEIR BEHAVIOR TOWARD US IN A FUNDAMENTAL WAY."
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